



William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall

TOWN OF CLINTON

54 East Main Street
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

Peter Neff
Public Works Director

Right of Way Clearing Policy

6/1/17

In the last several years, we have noticed a dramatic increase in the amount of hedges and plantings that have grown into our roadways and sidewalks effectively blocking portions of both. The Town by State Statute and Town Ordinance has the right to trim and/or remove plantings it considers a safety hazard.

We DO NOT have the ability to notify every property owner that his or her shrubs and plants are growing into the road or sidewalk causing a safety issue. Nor do we have the funds or man power to hand trim these locations.

It is up to every property owner to assure that their shrubs and plantings along Town Roads and sidewalks are maintained in the following manner; along roads shrubs and plantings are trimmed back a minimum of two feet from the road edge and in the case of sidewalks, maintained as to not interfere with passage by pedestrians.

Our only option is mechanically trimming the area, which leaves a lot of damage behind. The damaged area generally grows out within one season to cover the scarred areas but within a few years, we will need to repeat the same process. We do not have the ability to notify everyone when we will be in specific are trimming but understand we trim all roads once a year at a minimum.

We respectfully request that property owners take responsibility for their plantings along our roads and sidewalks. If as a property owner you are interested in having over grown plantings removed please contact the Department of Public Works.



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The town has management of all town property and highways. The town could be subjected to liability claims if the lack of site line over town property was the cause of an accident.

See: Conn. Gen. Stat. §7-148(c)(6)(C) Scope of municipal powers

(C) Highways and sidewalks.

(ii) Keep open and safe for public use and travel and free from encroachment or obstruction the streets, sidewalks and public places in the municipality;

See also our Ordinances Section 390-7 regarding public nuisances. To the extent someone is maintaining landscaping that creates interferes with the use of a public street, it is a public nuisance as defined in the ordinance and subject to enforcement and abatement.

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Property that has any of the following conditions:

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Landscaping on any premises, including but not limited to trees, shrubs, hedges, grass, and plants, which physically hinders or interferes with the lawful use of abutting premises or blocks or interferes with the use of any public sidewalk and/or private street or right-of-way or any road sign.